(b) whether the VSNL has also been helping the candidates to join the organisations wings in the town, from which the cases for employment of next of kin on compassionate grounds arose;

(c) whether those being taken out of their towns, would be provided houses to tide over their predicament about housing in new towns; and

(d) if so, the facts and details of employment offers issued during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Company's policy is to locate compassionate appointees at the same station wherever possible.

(c) Allotment of quarters to employees is made according to the rules of the Company. There is no provision for special allotment of quarters to the employees appointed on compassionate grounds.

(d) Five employment offers on compassionate grounds have been made during the last three months

Aplab Chip Card facilities for using telephones

7054. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have initiated action to popularise the installation of telephone boxes at different points to be used by the public with a card facilities;

(b) whether such installations have been restricted only in the premises of the Parliament buildings;

(c) whether such instruments hitherto fixed at CTO, New Delhi and other places, have been uprooted despite the fact that the number of users holding Aplab Chip Cards are not able to use the same for communications;

(d) whether further action would be taken to get installed such card system instruments in all Metropolitan and business-oriented cities immediately, making available different rated cards to assist the users of STD/ISD calls through such system; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. However card operated payphones earlier installed are still in operation

(b) No Sir. Installation of payphones is not restricted to Parliament House.

(c) Sir, the Card operated payphones installed in CTO, New Delhi have been replaced by other type of payphones for technical reasons.

(d) and (e) It is not proposed to introduce new Card payphones for the present in order *not to dilute the present scheme of providing* STD/ISD PCOs to educate unemployed.

Microwave connections to Blocks and Villages

7055. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the villages and RI Blocks, which were to be connected with Microwave in 1994-95, have not yet been so connected; and

(b) whether Rajkhand/Khataya Panchayats and Barku Gaon Panchayat in Khataya Block in District Muzaffarpur, have also not been covered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Complaint against MTNL by MPs

7056. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Sunday Statesman, Delhi dated the 7th May, 1995, under the caption, "Few expectations from MTNL";

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints referred by Members of Parliament during the last one year to the MTNL, have not been acted upon nor it has restored the telephone connections to the subscribers, while the

subscribers are continuing to pay rental bills;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that subscribers having telephone connections under the administrative *jurisdiction of General Manager (West I & II)* of the MTNL, could not get their connections restored even after continuous payments of bills;

(e) whether Government would now direct the MTNL to get the process of rectification and proper service of the telephones to subscribers expedited, without further delay; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Letters from MPs are duly acknowledged. Prompt action is taken on the complaint of the MP and the MP informed accordingly. Restoration of Telephones disconnected for non payment is being done in accordance with procedure detailed in (d) below.

(d) Telephones disconnected for non payment are restored expeditiously on payment of dues provides the period of disconnection is less than three months. In cases of reconnection beyond three months and upto six months reconnection orders are issued. However, actual reconnection could be delayed if area is technically not feasible. Cases of reconnection beyond six months are approved depending upon merits of each individual cases.

(e) and (f) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

Growth of Telecom facilities in Villages

7057. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the growth of telecommunications facilities in villages during 1994-95; and

(b) whether almost all Panchayats in whole of India have been covered with UHF/Satellite Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The details of growth of telecommunications facilities in villages during 1994-95, are as under:

(i) 3025 Electronic exchanges having capacity of 2,63,708 lines have been installed in the rural areas. This includes the electronic exchanges installed for replacement of old electrome chanical exchanges at some of the places.

(ii) 47,659 village public telephones have been provided.

(iii) Telegraph facility has been provided to 8077 VPTs.

(b) No Sir, as on 31.03.95, 1,55,310 Panchayat villages have been provided public telephone facility (VPTs), thus covering about 66% of the Panchayat Villages in the country. Out of this, 59,088 VPTs have been provided through Multi Access Rural Radio System (MARR) in the VHF band.

UHF and Satellite based system are not presently being used.

Profit/Losses of MTNL

7058. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is running at a loss and the profits they have shown are inflated; and

(b) what are the details of dues of MTNL, alongwith the details of more than four figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. MTNL is not running at a loss and the profits shown are not inflated.

(b) There are no dues pending payment by MTNL. Sufficient provisions are being made in the accounts and dues paid as and when the *liability arises.*